

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /092 W

-----230351Z 045631 /70

R 220526Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2901

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

COMIDEASTFOR

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XO, NZ, PARM

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON INDIAN OCEAN

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REF: (A) WELLINGTON 981, (B) WELLINGTON 924

1. PRIME MINISTER MULDOON'S COMMENTS IN SYDNEY RE PRESIDENT
CARTER AND PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON DEMILITAR-
IZATION OF INDIAN OCEAN (REFTEL A) CONTINUE TO BE SUBJECT OF
MEDIA PLAY AND POLITICAL COMMENT THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND. OPPOSIT-
ION LEADER ROWLING ATTACKED PRIME MINISTER FOR "GRATUITOUS

INSULT" OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND AN "OPEN-MOUTHED" APPROACHED TO INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY. ROWLING SAID PRIMIN'S "ARROGANCE WILL DO NOTHING FOR NEW ZEALAND'S RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S." AND URGED HE ABANDON TOUR AND RETURN HOME.

2. SUBSEQUENT PRESS REPORTS FROM PRIMIN'S TOUR IN AUSTRALIA HAVE QUOTED MULDOON AS EXPRESSING "MILD CONCERN" FOR USG INDIAN OCEAN POLICY BUT ALSO THAT HE REACTED FAVORABLY TO NEWS THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION SEEMED TO HAVE "MODIFIED" ITS POSITION ON INDIAN OCEAN TO ONE OF MUTUAL MILITARY RESTRAINT AND SUPPORT FOR EXISTING BALANCE OF POWER. MEANWHILE, ACTING PRIMIN AND FOREIGN MINISTER TALBOYS DISMISSED AS NONSENSE ANY SUGGESTION THAT MULDOON'S COMMENTS WERE INTENDED AS RESULT TO PRESIDENT. PRIMIN WAS MERELY CONTINUING A POLICY OF "STRONG DECLARATION OF NEW ZEALAND'S VIEWS" HE SAID.

3. COMMENT: THERE SEEMS LITTLE QUESTION BUT THAT PRIMIN'S COMMENTS SOUNDED IN THE TELLING MUCH WORSE THAN HE HAD INTENDED. PREDICTABLY, NEW ZEALAND PRESS PLAYED STORY FOR ALL IT WAS WORTH. WHILE NO ONE EXPECTS MULDOON TO BACK DOWN ON INCIDENT, ANY MORE THAN HE HAS ON NUMEROUS OTHER SHOTS FROM THE SHOULDER, WE ARE CERTAIN HE RUES A POOR CHOICE OF WORDS. IN THREE SEPARATE PHONE CALLS WITH MFA DIVISION HEADS AND PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS SECRETARY, EMBOFF WAS ASSURED MULDOON INTENDED NO INSULT. PRESS SECRETARY ADDED THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE WRONG TO INTERPRET IT AS SUCH.

4. USG INDIAN OCEAN POLICY "MODIFICATION" TO WHICH PRIMIN

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IS SAID TO HAVE FAVORABLY REACTED WAS APPARENTLY PRESIDENT'S UN SPEECH OF MARCH 17 AND HIS USE OF PHRASE "MUTUAL MILITARY RESTRAINT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN". KEY WORD "MUTUAL" IMPLIES TO MULDOON USG CONSULTATION WITH TRADITIONAL ALLIES AND ABSENCE OF FEARED UNILATERAL APPROACH. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON USG POLICY WHICH EMBASSY MIGHT NOW SHARE WITH GNZ (REFTEL B) IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
SELDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, BALANCE OF POWER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: WELLINGTON
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
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TAGS: PFOR, PARM, XO, NZ, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (MULDOON, ROBERT D)
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